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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Atomic Experiments in the Carpathians, Ukrainian SSR

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1. On 20 Jan 54, N. S. Kruglov, Soviet Minister of Internal Affairs, left Moscow for the Carpathian region, accompanied by General A. N. Medelin of the artillery. This region, in which until very recently, there have been repeated clashes between troops and Ukrainian partisans, is being made ready for atomic experiments, which will take place in the spring of 1954.
2. The region has been in a state of unrest ever since Stalin's death, due principally to the strong centralizing tendency of the new regime. Following the arrest of Beria, the Kremlin decided on a general purge of the area, especially in the district of Turnopol.
3. The whole Carpathian area has now been chosen for experiments with atomic weapons and NKVD troops have begun the large-scale evacuation of the population. Proving grounds for atomic artillery experiments have been cleared between Mukachevo-Berehovo-Sevlyush* in Ruthenia; between Stary Sambor and Lwow in the Dniester valley; on the banks of the Dnieper, north and east of Kiev; and in the vicinity of Chernobyl in the Bukovina.
4. Polish and Czech officers will be present at the Soviet experiments with atomic artillery in Ruthenia in the spring.
5. Measures preliminary to the tests include the felling of a great deal of timber and the construction of new lines of barracks, storerooms and strategic roads, the last planned to be able to take heavy tanks.

* [Now called Vinogradov.]

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